

HOUSE RESOLUTION 273

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Claude R. Walls of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Claude R. Walls; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Claude R. Walls was a highly decorated veteran of the United States Army, an exemplary public servant, and a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Claude Walls was the son of the late James Redman and Callie Lucille Trout Walls of Cornersville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1951, Sgt. Walls defended and protected his platoon by holding off a large enemy force with automatic rifle fire and grenades, enabling his comrades to establish a successful defensive action; he also rendered first aid and carried a wounded man to safety, stopping every few yards to fire on the enemy until his ammunition was exhausted; and

WHEREAS, for his heroic actions, Sgt. Walls received the Distinguished Service Cross and membership in the Legion of Honor, one of our great country's highest awards; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Walls served as the Grand Marshal of the Lebanon Veteran's Day Parade in 1996 and was singled out every Veteran's Day for honors, as he was Wilson County's most decorated veteran; and

WHEREAS, prior to his retirement, Claude Walls served with acumen and alacrity as a heavy equipment operator, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Sgt. Walls was a member of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Legion of Valor, and the Korean War Association; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of the Hillcrest Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Claude Walls was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, by his passing, he is reunited with his parents; his beloved wife, Mildred Holder Walls; sister, Lois Walls; and brother, Lee Walls; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his two children, Brigitte Hankins and husband, Dennis; and Ronald Claude Walls and wife, Joy Danette; his siblings, Richard Walls, Faye Brown, Bettye Hailey, Cathy Byars, and Robbie Gordon; his grandchildren, Jeremy David Baxter, Brian Christopher Walls, Tabitha Danielle Hankins, Amanda Gail Hood, Chasity King, and Chad LaFuze; and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure the safety of their fellow citizens, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Claude Walls, our highly esteemed colleague, is one such courageous Tennessean who risked life and limb to save the lives of the men in his platoon and was, in every sense of the word, a hero; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional soldier and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Sergeant Claude R. Walls, reflecting fondly upon his courage and resolve in the face of imminent danger, and his selfless actions in saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Sgt. Claude R. Walls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.